

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following:

Amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 60/418,948 filed October 15, 2002. ~~The present invention is directed to a notebook having removable pages according to the definition of the species in claim 1.~~

Add the following header and paragraph after [0001]:

BACKGROUND

[0001.1] The present invention is directed to a notebook having removable pages.

Add the following header after [0003]:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Amend paragraph [0005] as follows:

[0005] ~~This objective is achieved in accordance with the present invention by the features set forth in claim 1.~~ The present invention provides a notebook (1) comprising a base (2) having a front side and a rear side, as well as first retaining means (10), which, to secure a writing medium (18) of a first size to the front side of the base (2), are disposed at a first distance (8) from a first peripheral edge (4) of the same. Second retaining means (22, 30, 32) are provided at a second distance (20) from the first peripheral edge (4) of the base (2), which are used to fasten a second individual writing medium (26), in the form of a sheet, having a different size than the first writing medium (18). The first retaining means includes a first strip (10) of thin material which, within the span of the first distance (8), extends from a first side edge (12) to a second side edge (14), substantially in parallel to the first peripheral edge (4) of the base (2) in such a way that the corresponding edge (16) of the first writing medium (18) is slideable underneath the first strip (10), in order to secure the same to the base (2).

Delete paragraph [0006].

Before paragraph [0007] add the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Before paragraph [0012] add the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Amend paragraph [0015] as follows:

[0015] By using a base in combination with two different retaining means 10, 22, one derives the advantage that notebook 1 in accordance with the present invention may be used in Europe, as well as in the United States, without any limitations, the particular benefit being that only a few loose sheets, for example five sheets, of first writing medium 18 or of second writing medium 26 are always able to be secured to base 2 by corresponding retaining means 10, 22. As a result, notebook 1 according to the present invention is able to be kept extremely thin and flexible, if desired enabling it to fit in every shirt pocket, jacket pocket, or pants pocket, without being irritatingly bulky or outwardly visible. In addition, because of the comparatively low number of writing media 18, 26, the notebook has a low weight. This likewise has a very beneficial effect on the comfort and convenience of the wearer.